

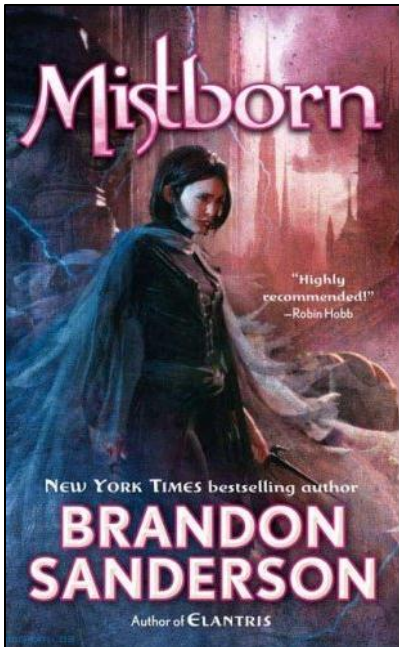
In bookstores

“Mistborn”

The Final Empire



By Staff Sgt. Jason Colbert



For many years, Robert Jordan was my favorite author. So when I heard that he was dying, I was grief stricken. One, for the passing of a great author and two, because he hadn't finished his “Wheel of Time” series yet.

I found out that Robert had chosen another author to continue his book series and finish it for him. Who was the person that would take up the great works of a master; Brandon Sanderson. My thought was if he was going to take this on, he'd better be good.

I picked up the first book, “Elantris,” and the next thing I knew, I'd finished a book that had transported me to another world. I loved it. I was hooked on Brandon Sanderson.

Soon after, I went to his website to look at what was next on the list. That's when I found “Mistborn: The Final Empire.” It was the first book in a trilogy, but now there is a fourth set in the same world.

The story takes place a thousand years ago in a world where a young hero rises up to defeat a darkness threatening the world but loses. Now the world is a wasteland covered in ash and controlled by a ruthless leader known as the Lord Ruler.

I picked up the next book in Sanderson's repertoire and jumped right in.

Introduced to the dashing rogue Kelsier, I was quickly enthralled with his group of magical varlets, all Mistings, who are Allomancers or people able to burn a specific metal inside their bodies to produce external effects such as pushing other metals around or altering people's emotions.

His crew includes Sazed, his confidant, who is able to store his own physical and mental abilities away until he needs them, and Vin, an orphaned girl and a Mistborn. Mistborn are people able to burn not just one, but all of the known Allomantic metals at once.

The book revolves around Kelsier, a Mistborn as well, and his crew attempting to do what no one in history has been able to do — steal the Lord Ruler's own wealth from him and use it to bribe his army away from him. If they can find a way to kill him along the way so much better.

To do this, he trains Vin in the use of her powers while working behind the scenes with others to get things into place for the main event.

Sanderson uses a mixture of comedy and wit to give you empathy for the characters. You come to care for them and the world they are trying to save.

“Mistborn: The Final Empire” is a thrilling mix of a heist story, fantasy and kung fu all in one novel. The characters aren't just going along; they are shaping the events around them.

Following along with their exploits is a rollercoaster ride full of thrills, intrigue, plans within plans and unexpected twists, especially toward the end when ... wait, I can't give that away!

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who likes fantasy novels, movies like “Ocean's Eleven” or a good role playing game.